SEVERAL
PETITIONS
ANSWERED,

That were put up by the Priests of

WESTMORLAND,

Against *James Nayler* and *Geo. Fox*, Servants of the most High God, persecuted by the Priests of the world, as Jesus Christ and the Apostles were persecuted by the Jewish high Priests for the witnessing of the truth, and testifying against the deceits of the world.

With the answer to an Order given forth by the Justices at *Appleby* Sessions, contrary to the Law of God, and the Laws of the Land.

Also, an exhortation to the people, to mind the light of God in them, the teachings and leadings of the Spirit of Truth; the which if it be obeyed, will lead and guide them into all truth.

This is the condemnation, That light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather then light, because their deeds are evill: He that loves the light brings his deeds to the light, that the light may prove them; but he that doth evill hateth the light, neither cometh he to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that loveth the truth, and doth that which is righteous, cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God, John 3. 19,20,21 *verses.*

Little Children, let no man deceive you, he that doth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous; he that committeth sin, is of the Divell: In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the Divel, whosoever doth not righteousness, is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother, 1 John 7,8,9,10.

Marvell not if the world hate you, it hated me before it hated you, John 15. 18.

Blessed are you when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evill, for the Son of Mans sake, rejoyce ye in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, great is your reward in heaven, for in the like manner did their fathers unto the Prophets, Luke 6.22,23.

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An Epistle to the Reader.

Christian Friends,

Remember the words of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who said, the servant was not greater then his Lord, and saith he, if they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also; and saith he marvell not if the world hate you it hated me before it hated you, if ye were of the world the world would love you, but because I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you, but these are the fruits of darkness, that ariseth from Cains *generation; they that are after the flesh, they persecute them that are after the Spirit, it is the world that persecutes, and as they are in their naturall state and condition, they know not God, but are enemies both to him, and His, where he is made manifest in Spirit; they that are in the corrupt nature are ignorant of him, according as it is written in the Epistle to the* Corinthians, *the naturall man knowes not the things of God, because they are spiritually discerned, and no man knowes the Father but the Son, neither knoweth any man the Son but the Father and he to whom the Son reveals him; there is no knowing of God, but by the Revelation of his Spirit: but naturall men such as the*

Prieſts of the world who are ignorant of God and are enemies to him, being guided by the ſpirit of error, ſtanding up in actuall Rebellion againſt God, now that he is Revealing his Son in the hearts of his people, and leading them by the Divine light of his holy Spirit out of Egypt, out of bondage and darkneſs wherein they have been held in the time of the fall, while the myſtery of iniquitie hath been working, and Antichriſt ſitting in the Temple of God, as God, ſhewing himſelf to be God, and the Prieſts of the world have been caſting a miſt before the eyes of the underſtandings of the people by their Greek, Latin, and Hebrew, which is but dung, and droſſe, earthie, and ayrie, hath driven the people into earthly conceivings & imagination, having no other knowledge of God but by conceiving and imagining of him, & are of thoſe whom the Lord complains of by his ſervant the Prophet ſaying, This people draweth near me with their mouth, and with their lips do they honor me, but their heart is far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men, therefore thus ſaith the Lord, I will gather thoſe that have been ſcattered in the Cloudie and dark day, and I will teach them my ſelf, and write my Law in their hearts, and put my Spirit in their inward parts; then ſhall ye know that I the Lord have ſpoken it, and I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all Countries, and ſprinkle clear water upon you, and cleanſe you from all your uncleanneſs: a new heart alſo will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you, and I will cauſe you to walk in my ſtatutes to do them, Ezek. 36. *Chapter. Now the Lord is fulfilling his Promiſes made of old to the ſeed of* Abraham *after the ſpirit, the Immortall ſeed that is begotten not by the will of man but by the will of God, and born again of water and the ſpirit, being ſeparated from all uncleanneſs, and they that live in the filth of the fleſh, fulfilling the luſts*

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thereof know them not that are born again, washed and cleansed, sanctified and justified, and are taught of God and made pertakers of the Divine nature, but are enemies to them, it is the same generation now that persecuts, that persecuted from the beginning, but it is but that the Scriptures may be fulfilled, the Beast shall make War with the Saints, Gog *and* Magog *joyns together in Battle against the Lamb, the Priests of the world are the greatest persecutors of the truth of God. Now as the High Priest was when Jesus Christ came in the flesh, the chief Priests were the greatest persecutors of him then, stirring up the Rulers, and Elders, and the rude multitude against him, calling him A deceiver and A blasphemer and they spued forth their envie against him in raising false witnesses against him, and every way incensing the People against him to cry out to have him put to death,* Saying, Crucifie him, Crucifie him, and let us have Barabbas let loose which was a murderer, *and if thou do but Read this little ensuing treatise thou shalt finde something worthy of thy labour being single eyed, thou wilt be brought to see Antichrist or the man of sin in A high measure, the mystery of iniquitie acting in the Priests of the world, that do professe themselves to be the Ministers of Christ, but are of the Synagogue of Satan, and are enemies to Jesus Christ where he is made manifest and raised up in the spirits of any to testifie against their deceits wherein they do deceive the people, and are in the same state and condition that the Jewish High Priests were in, that put Christ to death: as thou readest keep thy eye single and be not Partiall, and thou shalt see that the battell is begun betwixt* Michael *and the Dragon, & the Dragon he casteth forth floods of revilings and reproaches, and persecutions after the man-childe Christ Jesus as he is arising in the spirits of his people, to*

stifle

ſtifle him in the birth that he may not come forth to raign, and where he is Born up into the underſtandings of any ruling by the Divine Power of his Spirit in any, the Dragon with his ſeven golden heads, or the Prieſts under ſeverall Colours being the painted Beaſt that is gilded with their glorious notions, having painted themſelves over with the words of the Prophets and Apoſtles, that ſuffered by ſuch as they are of the ſame generation, whoſe heart is deceitfull and that above meaſure, being full of ſubtiltie, the Serpents head being unbruiſed in them, they labour every way as the Jewiſh High Prieſts did, to deſtroy thoſe who are brought to walk in the ſame ſtate and condition that the holy men of God did. In former ages, men that were blameleſs and harmleſs in their lives and converſations were guided by the holy ſpirit of God that ruleth in them, I know it by experience, being acquainted with them in their godly converſation, which thoſe Cainiſh and Jewiſh ſpirited Prieſts goes about to caſt dirt upon, making them odious to the world ſtirring up the people in envie and malicionſneſs againſt them, if it were poſſible to take away their lives, and the Jewiſh high Prieſts ſtirred up the rulers and Elders of the people againſt both Jeſus Chriſt and the Apoſtles who were his true Miniſters, to perſecute, Impriſon and put them to death, ſo do theſe ſtir up not onely the rude people in envie and malice, but they ſtir up the Parliament and Rulers of the people by their falſe petitions to incenſe them againſt a harmleſs and an innocent people to take away if not their lives, yet their liberties, but where the Lord doth appear in any of the Rulers of the people they will ſee into the wickedneſs of the Prieſts that they are thoſe that perſecute the Lord of life in his Saints and ſervants, and they do openly manifeſt themſelves that they are none of the Miniſters of Jeſus Chriſt, for they

did never perſecute nor impriſon, but on the contrary were both perſecuted and impriſoned, and ſo are thoſe to whom Jeſus Chriſt is made manifeſt in ſpirit, now the Lord is ſetting up the Kingdom of his Son in the ſpirits of his people, and the Kingdom of Antichriſt, Babylon, the myſtery of iniquity muſt be thrown down: take heed of holding up that which God will not have to ſtand, he is ſetting up the miniſtery of his Son in the ſpirits of his People, and throwing down the miniſtery of Antichriſt, which is the miniſtry of the world, as it is made manifeſt hey do openly appear to thoſe that have their eyes in their head. Now friend if thou do but read this with thy underſtanding thou ſhalt ſee that theſe perſecuting Prieſts knowes nothing of God but are enemies to him, and are guided by the Spirit of error walking contrary to Chriſt and his Apoſtles, who were his true miniſters and were guided by his hol. Spirit, and ſuffered by the miniſtry of the word, as thoſe dear hearts do that are guided I am ſure by the Spirit of the Lord: and are as dear to him as the Apple of his eye, and if thou do but give thy diligence in reading to Read by the ſame guide that thoſe are led by that write the enſuing treatiſe, it will bring thee to ſee the innocency and uprightnes of their blameles lives and converſation, that they are made to ſuffer willingly for Righteouſnes ſake according to the command of Jeſus Chriſt, and walkes in his obedience, knowing that their reward is in Heaven, having their converſation in Heaven according to that of the Apoſtle in the third to the Philip. 20. *And their affections being ſ t on things above and not on the earth ſeeking a Kingdom but not of this world, for were they of this world, the world would love its own, but becauſe they are choſen out of the worlds ways and worſhips, cuſtomes and faſhion, being dead with Chriſt from the rudiments of the world,*

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are brought to worship God in spirit being born again of water and the Spirit as John 3. *and having their souls purified in yielding obedience to the commands of the Spirit as the Saints had which were obedient to the same spirit, which purified their souls, as in* 1 Pet. 1. 22, 23. *Who were born again as these are, Children of the most High God, whom the world and the persecuting envious Priests know not; for the spirit that is in them, is not of God, because it lusteth to envy contrary to the Spirit of Jesus Christ, which is pure and holy, and is loving, as it is raised up in any to rule and guide them, it beareth all the worlds Judgements, Reproaches, Revilings, and persecutions, and suffereth with Joy, having the promise of this life, and that which is to come, thus saith the Lord, Woe to the wicked it shall be ill with them, and they shall be rewarded according to their doings as in* Isaiah *the* 3. 10. *But say unto the righteous it shall be well with them, v.* 11: *and saith Jesus Christ blessed are you when men revile you, and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsly, as the Priests do by those innocent and harmless ones who are dear and precious in the sight of God, and may rejoyce, for their reward is great in Heaven, according to that of our Saviour in* Mat. 5. 10. 11. 12. *And that of* Peter: *who saith if ye be reproached for the name of Christ happy are you, for the spirit of grace and of glory Resteth on you, Rejoyce and be exceeding glad: all ye that love the Lord, Blesse ye the Lord, praise him and magnifie him for ever, for the Lord is glorifying himself and making his power known, and all the Crowns, of pride and vain glory, and fleshly exaltation must be thrown down, and the Son of his Love Raised up and exalted in the hearts of his people to sit upon his Throne, Rejoyce for evermore.*

A Friend to the Truth of God, where it is made manifest.

Richard Farnworth.

To

To the Right Worſhipfull the Juſtices of the Peace for the County of *WESTMORLAND.*

The Humble Petition of divers Miniſters and other Inhabitants in the ſaid County who earneſtly deſire the Glory of God, and the Peace of his Church, and this Common-Wealth.

Humbly Sheweth,

THat *James Nayler*, and *George Fox*, men whoſe Country, habitation, profeſſion, and condition, is to us generally unknown, meerly of their own accord, without any Paſport, Licence, or Authority whatſoever, that they can ſhew, or we ever heard of, have entered in to the County, and together with ſome others their companions and Proſelytes, who are riſen up among our ſelves in it, have filled it in ſome parts with very ſad diviſions and diſtractions, ſtirred up much hatred, wrath, and ſtriſe, even between the neareſt relations; and powerfully ſeduced multitudes of People from the Truth, and true worſhip of God, to imbrace their own corrupt and dangerous Doctrines, and follow their pernicious wayes; which things are ſo notoriouſly known to all men, that live in theſe parts, that we need not here ſay any thing to acquaint your ſelves with it.

And though theſe men tell people where they come, that they are ſent to them from God, to declare what he hath revealed in them, and labour to perſwade them that they come to them with the Authority of

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the Apoſtles of Chriſt, yet our ſelves do confidently believe and know them to be wicked men, deceivers, and the very Miniſters of Satan, as may appear,

1. By the Horrid-Blaſphemies which they have uttered.

2. By the damnable Hereſies and dangerous Errors which they have avouched.

All which they tend not onely to the diſturbance of the Publique Peace, and ſafety of the Commonwealth, but to the ſubverſion of all Government, we do in all Humility addreſſe our ſelves,

Humbly and earneſtly praying, as you tender the Glory of God, and the good of ſo many ſouls as are or may be indangered by their impious principles and practices, that you would be pleaſed to make uſe of that Authority wherewith the Lord hath Inveſted you, ſpeedily to provide for the ſafety of true Religion and the publique Peace, by checking the wicked endeavours, and proceedings of theſe men, which we humbly conceive may be at leaſt by ordering *James Nayler*, and *George Fox*, &c. being ſtrangers to depart out of this County, and to return to their own homes. *Francis Howgill* to be of better deportment, ſpecially towards the Magiſtracie and Miniſtry of *England*, And by enjoyning *John Ayrey*, *Alexander Dixon*, and the reſt of the ſpeakers and followers that live in this County, to abide at their own Homes, ſtudy to be quiet, and do their own buſineſs, labouring in their own calling, which is the Apoſtles rule, and not to wander up and down the Country, as Seducers, to draw Diſciples after them, ſave only in a way of Travell as private men about their own occaſions; and the Lords Gracious guidance of your ſelves in the affairs of ſo great concernment, we ſhall ever pray, &c.

This is a true Coppie of the pretended Miniſters and profeſſors in this County given up at the Court at laſt Seſſions at *Appleby*.

Severall

Severall Petitions answered, that were put up by the Priests of *WESTMORLAND.*

Priest.

TO the Right Worshipfull the Justices of the peace for the County of *Westmorland.*

Answ. Them that are right, deny all worships, and worship God, and honor the Lord, *All honour and glory be given unto the Lord.* Now Man where is thy honour? Yet I honour all men in the Lord. Acts 19.27. John 5. 44. John 4. 22. Prov. 20.3. Rev. 14.7.

Priest. Obj. The humble Petition of divers Ministers, and other inhabitants in the said County, who earnestly desire the glory of God, and the peace of his Church, and this Commonwealth.

Answ. The Ministers of God never put up a Petition to an outward Magistrate to maintain the Church of God. Here you shew your Ministery is of man, and must be upheld by an earthly power: and here you shew that Church is carnal, and must be maintained by a carnall weapon, as the Jews did, which came against Gal. 1. 8. John 18.36.

Acts 24. 5. Acts 17. 6. Col. 2. 17. *Paul*, and said he was *a pestilent fellow*, who did witness forth the substance, Jesus Christ, of all these types and figures which the Jewes lived in, therefore his doctrine did overturn them, to the letting forth of the seed: for that Mind that held up the Figure, did not own the substance Jesus Christ, when he was come.

Gal. 3 13. 1 Per. 3. 19. 2 Tim 3. 5. Mark 3. 22. Now all you pretended Ministers of Christ, Jesus Christ is come and made manifest in his Saints; you who have the form deny him, and the power, and some call it witchery, some of the Divell; but that Nature can do no other, for it is the same naure that was in the Jewes, who would maintain their way, and hold up their customes, and persecute him that was the substance, and called him Divell: But the Church Iesus Christ is the head of, and the Church is the pillar and ground of truth, and Christ hath redeemed his Church with his blood, and who are redeemed by the pretious blood of Iesus Christ, are of the Church, and them I do witness and not one of them shall be plucked out of his hand, whom the Father hath given me, saith Christ, *John* 10.28,29,30,31 My Father which gave me them is greater then all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Fathers hands. I and my Father are one. Then the Iews took up stones to stone him, Christ hath no carnal weapon to maintain his Church, for his kingdom is not of this world.

1 Tim. 3. 15. Col 1. 24. Rev. 5. 9.

John 10. 29.

John 18. 36.

Pr. Obj. Humbly sheweth, that *James Nayler* and *George Fox*, men whose countrey, habitation, profession and condition is to us generally unknown.

Answ. It is true, our habitation is with the Lord, and our Countrey is not of this world, neither are our conditions known unto the world; for who had the power of truth was never known unto the world, where the

the ſame power is made manifeſt, 'tis ſo now, the world knows them not, therefore they hate you, and perſecute you, the Scripture's here fulfilled, As they have done unto me, ſo will they do unto you, ſaith Chriſt. Here the Scripture is fulfilled. John 15 19, 20 Heb. 11. 14, 15, 16. John 15 18.

Pr. Obj. Merely of their own accord, without any paſport, or licenſe, or authority that they can ſhew, or we ever heard of, entred into the County, and together with ſome others their companions and proſelites riſen up among our ſelves.

Anſw. The Miniſters of God never were ſent forth by the authority of man: Here you ſhew your ſelves to be blind guides indeed, *Paul* an Apoſtle, not of man, nor by man, but by Ieſus Chriſt; neither was the Goſpel he preached, according to man: and this do we witneſs, that our authority is not from man, neither our call from man; for he that ſpeaks of himſelf ſpeaks a lie; and all you who ſpeak, & not from the mouth of the Lord, are falſ Prophets, and there you ſhew your ſelves to be no Prophets of the Lord, no Miniſters of the Goſpel; for if you were the Miniſters of the Goſpel, and had not received it of man, nor your Goſpel according to man, then would ye witneſs us; for that which we preach, is not after man, neither according to mans will, but by the will of God: For we are not made Miniſters by *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, for that we deny. We ſtand condemned by you who are Miniſters of the Letter, and not of the Spirit, who are Miniſters by the will of man, and your Call and Authority is by the will of man. Mat. 23. 24. Gal. 1. 1. Jer. 23. 31, 32. Gal. 1. 21, 12. Gal. 1. 1.

Obj. Hvae filled it in ſome parts with very ſad diviſions.

Anſw. Truth did make diviſion when Deceit was at peace,

Mat. 10:34,35 peace: For Christ said, I come not to send peace on the earth, but a sword, for I am come to set a man at variance against his Father, and the daughter against her mother, the daughter in law against the mother in law, and here is the Scripture fulfilled.

Pr. Obj. Stirred up much wrath and strife, even between the neerest relation.

Answ. It seems hatred, wrath and strife were within, now truth hath stirred it up. When the strong man armed keeps the house, all the goods are at peace, till a stronger come and dispossesses him, and spoyls his goods: and here is the Scripture fulfilled, where the power of truth dwels, and the Kingdom of God is come, who are indeed the Temples of God; the works of the Divell destroyed, hatred, malice, wrath, strife, heresie and blasphemy, pride, hypocrisie and dissembling, where the truth rules, these are destroyed; and where these rule truth rules not, and consider all you pretended Ministers what you have been doing all this while, that there is so much wrath and strife to be stirred up, when the truth comes, for that is it that sets at variance. O all people consider what blind guides you have been led withall, why spend you your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Ho every one that thirsteth, come freely, without mony and without price, hearken diligently unto me saith the Lord, that your souls may live.

Mat 3. 27. Luke 17. 20, 21. 1 Cor. 6. 19. 1 John 3 8.

Isai. 55. 1, 2, 3.

Pr. Obj. And powerfully seduced multitudes of people from the truth.

Answ. Whereas we are accused, as seducing people from the truth, it is false: for how can they be in the truth who live in malice, envy, strife, and wrath? for they

they that live in that nature are turned from the truth; which according to your own words much of that is stirred up. The Lord hath sent us, and made us to come into this County, to draw up people unto himselfe, from the Doctrines and Worships of the world. All people are seduced by you whom God hath never sent; for I will prove by the Scriptures that you are seducers, and draw people from the teaching within them, to follow your imaginations, what you can study out of the letter which the holy men of God spoke forth freely, the which now you make a Trade of. And *Iohn* said, These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you, you need not that any man teach you; but as the anointing teaches you all things. Now if an hundred, or a thousand people should come and deny all you Priests, and witness they had this anointing within them; then this Scripture being fulfilled, and you denied, such you go about to persecute which witness this anointing within them, and need no man teach them. Herein you shew that you have not the same spirit that was in them that wrot that Epistle, but the spirit of the world; the world did not know them then, which were taught by that anointing, but hated them, as you do now, them that witness the same annointing ye hate; ye are the Antichrists of this world, and hate them who are not of this world, and seek to bring them from their teacher within, to follow you who go in the way of *Cain* to envy, and after the error of *Balaam*. Here you shew your selves to be seducers, and such we do deny, but to every mans conscience do we look to be made manifest; and we do not seek to draw any one from the anointing within them, but do exhort all there to wait and abide for the promise, which

Mat. 15.9. Col. 2.22. 1 John 2.26, 27. John 11 7.

1 Joh. 2.26,27

John 15 25.

Jude 11.

2 Cor. 4. 2. 1 John 2. 25. 2 Tim 3 3. which is eternall life to them that abide in the anointing; but you falſe accuſers are without, which the Scripture ſpeaks of.

Pr. Ob. And from the worſhip of God.

Anſw. That is falſe, to ſay we draw any from the truth; for we can do nothing againſt the truth, but for the truth, as the Apoſtle ſaith: but all corrupt wayes we deny and abhorre, and the worſhip of the wicked we deny, who have not their names written in the Lambs Book of life, and God is not worſhipped with mens hands, neither dwels he in Temples made with hands; and for witneſſing this, *Steven* was ſtoned to death when the high Prieſts examined him; which generation you ſhew your ſelves to be, in the ſame nature, holding up outward Temples and Synagogues, which we deny, and ſeek to draw people from theſe things. God is a Spirit, and he that worſhips him muſt worſhip him in ſpirit and in truth, and this worſhip we own, and draw people to it up to God from all beaſtly worſhips, outward Cuſtomes imitated of man, which is an abomination unto the Lord.

2 Cor. 13. 8. Rev. 21. 27. Acts 17. 24, 25 Acts 7. 5, 6. Rev. 13. 8. Ioh 4. 22, 25. Acts 19. 27, 24

Pr. Ob. To imbrace their corrupt and dangerous doctrines, and pernitions ways; which things are ſo notoriouſly known to all men that live in theſe parts, that we need not here ſay any thing to acquaint your ſelves with it.

Anſ. Corrupt Doctrines & pernicious ways we deny, which are all your ways you proud *Baals* Prieſts for he that doth abide in the Doctrine of Chriſt, hath God, and he that doth not abide in the Doctrine of Chriſt, is of the Divell: Ieſus Chriſt is made manifeſt, who witneſſes forth the eternall truth to poor ſouls, who have lived in darkneſs and blindneſs theſe many hundred

2 Pet. 2. 2. 15. 2 John 1. 9. Luke 7. 9.

hundred years have the dark miniſtery reigned; but now the God of power is uttering his thunders, and making his power known, and the eternal word of God is made manifeſt in us, this we witneſs, which we preach forth, to the glory of our Father, Praiſes, praiſes be unto thee alone Lord God Almighty, who art now ſetting up thy own Kingdom. And the ſame judgement do ye give upon us as the Jews did upon Chriſt and the Apoſtles; for the Apoſtle while he was in the Jewiſh Religion, in their outward worſhip, as you are now, they looking for a Chriſt coming without them, as you do now (at which time) *Paul* was at peace with them; but when he did preach Ieſus Chriſt that was revealed in him, then they haled him out of the Temple, and perſecuted him, & could not own nor beleeve what was revealed in him: ſo if any ſhould come amongſt you now, and tell you that God dwels not in Temples made with hands, neither was he worſhipped with mens hands, ye would hate them, beat them, or ſtone them, as they did the Apoſtles. This ye do that the Scripture might be fulfilled, The time ſhall come, when they ſhal put you out of their Synagogues, and ſhall hale you before Magiſtrates, and who ſhall kill you will think he doth God good ſervice: And do not you ſhew your ſelves openly to be of this generation? Will you have another meaning for the Scriptures? There are but two ways, the one is pure, and leads up to the Father; the other ſtands pretending God and Chriſt, which way you are in, perſecuting us who poſſeſs the truth. Here's the ſtand.

Rev. 10. 34.

Acts 21. 27. 28, 30.

Acts 17. 24, 25.

John 16. 2.

John 8. 41, 33. Luke 13. 24.

Pr. Ob. And though theſe people, tell people where they come, that they are ſent to them from God to declare what he hath revealed in them, and labour to

perſwade them that they come to them with the Authority of Chriſt and of the Apoſtles, yet our ſelves do confidently beleeve and know them to be wicked men, deceivers and the very Miniſters of Satan, as may appear.

Anſw. Our call we witneſs is of the Lord, not by man, that makes you whoſe call is by man ſo perſecute us; your own will is ſtanding, you rage againſt any that come contrary to the will of man, if ever you witneſs that call whereby all the Prophets and Apoſtles were and are ſent, you will not queſtion our Authority, the Lords work is ſpirituall, 'tis him alone that fits them, and furniſhes them with power from on high to bear witneſs to the Truth: and whereas you ſay before, that you know not our Country nor conditions, yet here you ſay that we are wicked men and deceivers, yea the Miniſters, of Satan, it ſeems you care not what you ſay, but ſay and unſay any thing to root out the innocent, you are lyars, and are without among dogs, murderers, ſorcerers, whoremongers, whoſe portion is in the lake your weapons that you form againſt the truth will not proſper, but the Lord hath diſcovered you to ſome, and is raiſing up a light, whereby your deceits will be laid open, with evill thoughts ye judge, who are the Miniſters of Satan, and by the wicked imaginations of your own hearts, counts truth blaſphemie, and puts light for darkneſs, as ever the Prieſts did.

Mat.23.33.34. Gal.1 1. 1 Cor.1.26. 27.28.

Rev.22.15. Iſa.54.17. Mat.26.65.

Jam.2.4.

Pri. Obj. 1. By their horrid blaſphemies, which they have uttered, ſecondly by their damnable Hereſies and dangerous errours, which they have avouched.

Anſ. Blaſphemy and Hereſie whereof we are accuſed we do deny, that which is falſe and errors we deny, for they

they are without God, and that is your own conditions and there ye live without God in the world, and who are in the truth are of one mind and one heart, now all the Priests see, which pretend Gods and faith, whether you be in one faith, which if you do consider, (faith which is the gift of God) ye know it not, it cannot be bought and sold for monie, And shew me in the Scripture that ever the Prophets, or Apostles had a set way of the world, or seeked to the world for augmentations or tithes, do not ye shew here the spirit of error, erring from the way of the Apostles, And do ye not shew your selves in the same generation of them that *Peter* spoke of who live in wickedness, and go after the error of *Baalam* and in the way of *Cain* to persecute the righteous seed where it is come: here thou makest but a rod for thy own back who liveth in uncleanness, sporting in the day time, feasting, rioting, and such are as naturall bruit beasts, and what they know they know naturally, whose Judgement lingers not, whose damnation slumbers not, wo unto you, for you go in the way of *Cain*, and the Lord is coming in power, to pour his plagues upon the beast, you beasts who doe not abide in the truth.

Gal.2.12. Acts 4.32. Eph.2.8. Act.8.19.20 21. Mat.10.8. 2 Pet.2.13.14 15. Pro.26.3. Jude 10. 2 Pet.2.13.

Pri. Obj. All which tends not onely to the disturbance of the publique peace, and safety of the Commonwealth, but to the subversion of all government.

Answ. That is false, it is not our intention to destroy the Commonwealth of *Israel*, for a Commonwealth is to bring up all into purity and Justice, righteousness we set up, own and honour in our souls for conscience sake; And Justice is to keep peace, and that we own, Justice is not to make strife, nor debate, but to keep peace, and he bears not the sword in vain, but he that doth pretend Justice, and is partiall, and hath an evil

Eph.2.12.

Jer 25.10. Hosea 4.2. 2 Tim.3.4. Prov.21.22. Prov.28.9. Prov.15.8.9. Rom.8.22. Psal.145.9. Rom. 13.12.

eye, and rules with his own will and tyrannie, that we deny, for the Commonwealth is destroyed for want of Justice, the Land mourns because of oaths, the Land mourns because of wickedness, drunkennes, fighting and wrangling carding and diceing, shovelbord and bowling, all these filthy pleasures ye lusttfull ones which holds them up we deny, for this cause the Creation grones, but Justice we own, let every soul be subject to the higher power for all power is of God, that soul is subject to the power of God, all these works are denied, and this Justice which keepes peace, and righteousnes we own, honour and set up in our souls.

Pri. Obj. We do in all humility adress our selves humbly and earnestly praying as you tender the glory of God.

Answ. The prayers of the wicked are abomination to the Lord, and your humility is fained, it crouches to one and persecutes another, here you shew your selves to be no Ministers of Jesus, Christ, for your weapons are carnall ours spirituall sayes the Apostle casting down spirituall wickednesses in high places, which we witness: and here you shew not the same spirit that was in the Apostles, but of error.

Prov. 12.22. Prov. 28.9. Col.2.18. Psal.146.9.

1 John 4.6.

Pr. Obj. And the good of so many souls as are, and may be indangered by their impious principles and practises, that you would be pleased to make use of that Authoritie wherewith the Lord hath invested you speedily to provide for the safety of true Religion and the publique peace.

Heb.13.17.

Answ. If you be Ministers of God, ye are to watch for the souls, tell me how many souls ye have led o of death, but you are in the flesh, and your Mini st is carnall, *Cain* is alive in you, and the soul ye know not

not, for it is in the death, therefore dissemble not thou deceiver, telling people of a soul, for thou art him that keepes in the death, and shuts the Kingdom of Heaven from against men and knowes not the soul, for that is shut up from thy understanding, that minde shall never know it, thou art a murderer of the just, and watchest for thy means, and if men will not give it thee, thou sues them at the law, therefore dost thou use carnall weapons to maintain thee, in thy carnall Ministry it shewes thy weapons to be carnall and not spirituall, shewing thy Kingdom to be of this world, And here doth, not thou shew forth damnable doctrines; for shame bluth. Mat.23.13. Jam.5 6. Acts 7.52.

Impious principles, and practises we deny, they are your own, which keepes poor souls in death; your preaching the carnall Letter to the carnall minde, and your carnall weapons will not maintain you, but you seek to a Magistrate, here you shame your profession, for where the truth is springing, the pure seed arising, you cannot suppress it with your carnall weapon the Letter; then you run to a Magistrate without to suppress it, while we all lived under your Ministry, and what you spoke we took it for truth as being naturally blind, hearing you blind then you owned us, but God now of his infinite love and mercy according to his promise hath gathered us, who have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day, following such shepherds as you which fed your selves, and cloathed your selves with the wooll, made a prey upon us and sought for the Fleece, but God as he hath said, he hath fulfilled, I will gather my sheep from their mouthes, and my sheep shall be a prey no longer unto them, and will feed them in a good pasture, and we witness the Scripture fulfilled, Mat.15.14. 1 Cor.2 14. Ezek.34 12. 13.14.8.10

there-

therefore do you hate us, and seek to persecute them in whom Jesus Christ is made manifest, but it is that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he that is born after the flesh persecutes him that is born after the spirit, and if any man live godly in Christ Jesus he must suffer persecution; here the Scripture is fulfilled, you shew your selves to be carnall indeed you must have an outward Authoritie to rule your Religion, for shame give over your profession, for pure Religion he that lives in it, and walkes in it, hath power over his own tongue, and is kept unspotted from the world, and doth visit the fatherless, widowes and strangers, and this hath not an outward power to order it, but is guided and ordered by the spirit of the Lord, to the Lord himself, to whom be praises for ever, and such we own in our souls, and such ye seek to persecute, and instead of relieving and receiving strangers, you give them a report or scandall, as wanderers, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, who preached the everlasting Gospel, the world knew not, and who forsook their own country and sought for another, whom the world was not worthy of, and you shew your selves to be of that generation, he that was a minister of God did exhort to receive strangers, by that means some received Angels, and the same eternal word hath God made manifest, and sent his servants to witness it forth, and to warn you all of wo and misery that will come upon all uncleanness, and ungodliness, and some of them you prison, some of them you beat and mock, and scourge in your Synagogues, and some of them you hale before Magistrates; And the chief Priests were ever the ringleaders to slay the righteous seed where it was born, wherein the Scriptures come to be fulfilled, and you shew the fulfilling of them upon the

Gal.4.29.
2 Tim.3.12.
Jam.1.26.27.
Rev.8.14.
Heb.11.38.
Heb.13.1.
1 Tim.5.10.
Mat.10.17.
Mat.27.1.20.
Mat.26.3.4.

the children of the Lord, and the words of Jesus Christ true, but he is coming who bears the government upon his shoulders, he alone will rule them, who rules all nations with a rod of iron, he alone will be their teacher, and their Shepherd, he alone rules his Church, who is the head, but this Church is not of this world, nor maintained by any weapon of this world, the true Church is in God, yours vvithout vvho maintain it with a carnall vveapon, you vvould have a speedy suppressing of the truth, vvhere it is risen, here you shevv your selves to be of that number vvho call evil good and good evil, and even the generation of them, that vvould ever have had truth suppressed, when it was risen, as they said to Christ depart out of our coasts, as they said to *Paul*, 'tis not fit such a fellow should live upon the earth, as to *Amos*, go thy way into *Judah* prophecie there that vvas the Kings chappell, and he told them the songs of the Temple should be turned into howling, so shall that nature, which hath turned *Davids* quakings and trembling into meeter, when ye read them, hats ye keep on, and vvhen ye sing them hats ye put off, and worship the vvorks of your own hands, shewing the spirit of error.

Isa. 9.6. Psal. 23.1. Col. 1.18. 1 Thes. 1.1.

Isa. 5.20. Acts 13.50. Acts 22.22. Amos 7.12. Amos 8.3. psa. 119.120.

Pr. Obj. By the checking the vvicked endeavours and proceedings of these men.

Answ. That is the blasphemer indeed vvhich vvould have the truth check, and be limitted, It is vvritten the beast shall blaspheme God and his Temple, And God hath raised up a light in many that are Justices to reprove that nature in you vvhich is fawning and flattering, and you will fawn upon them, vvhile they vvill give you means, but if they give you no means, then you prepare vvar against them.

Rev. 13.6. Mica. 3.5.

Pr. Obj. Which vve humbly conceive may be at least

least by ordering *James Nayler* and *Geo. Fox*, being strangers, to depart out of this County, and to return unto their own homes.

Ans. You pretended Ministers of Christ, which do but conceive with an earthly power to hinder the proceedings of that which you conceive to be error, which is the eternall truth; and which conceivings arise out of pride: Here it shews that you have not an infallible judgement, and as it is written, God will scatter the proud in their imaginations: and there is your portion. All people though you now despise us, and cast reproches & slanders upon us, ye shal eternally witness us; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, There shall be false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of them that are good, having a form of godlines, and denying the power thereof, vvhich the Apostle saw then creping into houses, leading silly women captive, always learning, never able to come to the knowledge of the truth, and this doctrine hath spread abroad, and ye are in it, having the form are not the people yet learning silly vvomen, indeed some thirty years learning, some fourty, some fifty, some sixty years learning, yet must be taught still, therfore you and your doctrine we utterly deny: For as the Apostle saith, ye need not that any man teach you, you know all things; but these vvere not of the vvorld, nor are they of this vvorld, vvho vvitness this teaching, nor the Teachers.

Luke 1.15.

2 Tim. 3 3, 4, 5 and so on.

1 John 2.20, 27.

1 John 3. 13.

Pr. Object. *Francis Howgill* to be of better deport, especially towards the Magistracie and Ministerie of *England*.

Answ. Would you have *Francis Howgill* to be like unto the World your selves? Is he going from the power and prince of the air, which rules in you, the children

children of disobedience, therefore you hate him. Ephes. 2. 2. Iohn 15 19.
Justice he owns, which cuts down corruption, which brings all into an upright carriage and righteous way towards God and man: this he owns and honors in his soul; the Ministers of God he owns, and such as bear rule by their means, as *Ieremy* cried out against, so do I, and such as are gredy dumb doggs, which seek for their gain from their Quarters, which *Isa.* spoke against I speak against; and such as are hirelings, which *Micah* cried out against, I cry out against; and such as seek for the fleece, and cloath with the woll, and feed themselves with the fat, and kill them that are fed, *Ezekiel* cried out against such, and so do I, the pure seed being made manifest in me, lets me see you to be such now, see if you can excuse your selves. And all such as who lay heavie burdens upon the people, and say they are Ministers of Christ, and act those things which Christ forbids, I deny: For, saith Jesus Christ, they are called of men Masters, and have the chiefest places in the Assemblies, stand praying in the Synagogues, whose prayers are heathenish, and love the uppermost rooms at feasts and love greetings in the market: and under a pretence make long prayers, devouring Widows houses. A Widow hath no husband, and Christ cryed woe against all such, woe was their portion, they painted themselves with other mens words; painted sepulchers, full of poyson within; woe was their portion, and there you are, woe is your portion; he that upholds that which Christ cried out against, is an Antichrist, and would you have him uphold Antichrist,

Ier. 5. 30. 31. Isai. 56. 10, 11 Ezek. 34. 2, 3. Matth. 23. 4, 5, 6, 7, 14. Matth. 6. 5.

tichriſt, and deny Chriſt? the world never received *Chriſt*, but *Antichriſt*. The Apoſtle ſaith, They go in the way of *Cain*, and run greedily after the error of *Balaam*, wo unto them: Are not all the Prieſts here? And would you have this ſet up, which all the Prophets, Chriſt and his Apoſtles cried out againſt? Where the ſame Spirit is made manifeſt, it ſees you all in error, blaſpheming God and his Temple.

Iude 11.

1 Iohn 4.1,2,3

Pr. Obj. And by enjoyning *Tho. Ayrey*, and *Alexander Dixon*, and the reſt of the ſpeakers and followers, that live in this County, to abide at their own houſes, ſtudy to be quiet, and do their own buſineſs, labouring in their own calling, which is the Apoſtles Rule, and not to wander up and down the countrey as ſeducers, to draw Diſciples after them, ſave onely as privat men in way of travell about their own occaſions.

Anſ. *Tho. Ayrey*, and other friends, whom you would have to abide in their own callings, according to the Apoſtles Rule, and ſtudy to be quiet, that they own, but the witneſſing forth of the truth doth diſturb the man of ſinne, which makes it now appear; he that is called of the Lord being a ſervant, is the Lords freeman; likewiſe he that is called being free, is Chriſts ſervant; ye are bought with a price, but be not ye the ſervants of man. Brethren, let every one wherein he is called of the Lord, there abide with the Lord. This call is a holy call, which calls into holineſs and righteouſneſs, without which none ſhall ſee the Lord; and this call is not of man. And the Apoſtles Rule we do own and witneſs; but as for

1 Cor. 7.20.
2 Theſſ. 2.3.

1 Cor. 7.22, 23,24.

for seducing people we deny, it is your own practice, we were all seduced by you, till God did enlighten us, & bring us out of darkness into his marvellous light, by which we testifie against all the works of darkness; and all who are brought into this light, are one in unity, & as the Apostle saith, exhort one another daily as the light doth appear, building up one another in the most holy faith; and all the children of God shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of them. 1 Pet. 2. 9. Iob 33. 30. 1 Iohn 1. 7. Iude 20. Isa. 54. 13.

And the Saints went from house to house, who were as one soul, and met together in singleness of heart; here you shew your selves to be deniers of the practices of the Apostles, and of the Saints, and would tread it under foot, and shew forth a beastly nature, under the pretence of humility, which is meer hypocrisie, and no good at all to poor souls, nor for Justice, nor for the Common-wealth, nor for pure Religion, nor for the Church of God, nor for godliness; but onely for your carnall states, and for fear of losing your carnall means, doe you rage; for they that own pure Religion, own us, the Church of God owns us, and they that own justice own us; and who owns the Prophets, Christ and his Apostles, own us; but you who have their forms, and not their power, persecute us, so shewing your selves to be haters of the truth. The Apostles Rule and use was, to go up and down the countrey, who were Ministers of God, and rejoyce in them whom he had made Ministers to witness forth the truth, and did plainly declare they had no certain dwelling place. How dare you take the Apostles for your cloke, and Acts 4. 32. Acts 2. 46. Matth. 28. 19.

their words, and act contrary to their life; they were guided by the Spirit of the Lord, and they did draw Disciples after them, out of the world and earthly mindedness, in whom the substance of all Types and Figures was made manifest, they had one heart, one minde: some indeed did forsake them, and imbraced the present world, as *Demas*: so would you have us to forsake the power of truth, and imbrace the present world; then we should not abide in the calling, wherein we are called of the Lord. See what a confusion is in your words.

Acts 4. 32.
2 Tim. 4. 10.

Object. *And for the Lords gracious guidance of your selves in the affairs of so great concernment, we shall ever pray.*

Prov. 28. 9.

Answ. You are blinde without the truth, and your prayers are an abomination unto the Lord, and they who have the gracious guidance of the Lord will witness us; for the free grace of God that brings salvation, you have turned into wantonness, it teacheth them to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, them we own; where this grace doth guide, we have unity with them; but where this free grace hath appeared, and is turned into wantonness, them we deny, and there is your conditions: the grace of God hath appeared in many of the Justices, which hath brought them from under your bondage, which will not be your Executioners, to execute your wrath and malice upon the harmless, innocent people: It hath been of late, that they who lived under your Ministry, the Lord alone was pleased to manifest himself in them, so that they

Tit. 2. 11, 12.

are

are brought to deny you, and declare what was freely revealed in them; presently you cryed out against them, and had them before Magistrates to suppress the truth, praised be the Lord who hath enlightened many by, and with his own light, and is setting up his own Kingdom to his own glory; praises, praises be unto the Lord God Almighty: never did the Apostles go to any Magistrate to suppress people, strangers, who witnesse forth the power of truth in any; where it appears, that you have not the same Spirit that was in them: It is the evil in you which would have the truth it self suppressed. It is of great concernment for you to stand up to maintain your Kingdom; for if truth rise, ye shall lose your Kingdom, eternally shall you witness us to be no Seducers, be ye witnesses against your selves, that ye are witnesses against the power of truth.

Rev. 11.15.

Mat. 23.31.

Another Petition put up by the Priests in *Westmerland*.

Priests Petition. TO the Right Honorable, the Justices of peace for this County of *Westmerland*.

Answ. That which is Right Honorable, is that which is pure, which is of God, which worships the Father of heaven and earth; now all people fear the Lord Jesus Christ, and see if there be not corruption within, that would be honored and worshipped,

John 5.41,44.

shipped; as ye read in all the Scriptures; they who honored the Lord Iesus Christ, cryed against deceits; and Iesus Christ testified against the works of the world; and the Apostles testified against the same; but that which was pure, they set up in their souls, and so do we, and honor in our souls.

John 7.7.

Priests Petition. The humble Petition of several Gentlemen, Ministers of the Gospel and others, friends and servants to Iesus Christ, his Gospel-truths and Ordinances, and the general wealth of this Commonwealth and Nation.

Answ. Never did the Gospel Ministers put up a Petition to a Magistrate to maintain the Gospel, nor the servants of Iesus Christ, wherein it appears that you are Ministers of the Letter, which is carnal and death, and you must have a carnal weapon to hold you up; for shame give over your Profession: and you profess humbleness, your humbleness is to persecute; here you shew forth the nature of Cain, and void of the knowledge of Iesus Christ; and the Ordinances of Iesus Christ was never set up by man, but man who lived in his own will was ever against them; and you know not his Ordinances, for they that knew his Ordinances, were not persecutors; but *Paul* before he was a Minister of Iesus Christ, and knew his Ordinances, he came with Letters from the Priests, to persecute the Saints who believed in Iesus Christ, and were of one soul, and met together, yea in the night time, all night, where it shews you have but the form, not the power, which must be turned away from, according to Scripture.

Mat.10.10.
2 Cor.10.14.
2 Cor.3.6.
1 John 3.12.
John 4.21,22, 23,24.

Acts 9.2.
Acts 22.4.
Acts 20.7.
Acts 4.32.

Priests

Prieſts Petition. Sheweth, that in the late wars, we, or the moſt of us, did expoſe lives, liberties, eſtates and relations, with all other perſonal advantages, in the juſt defence of Religion and Liberty, in concurrence with, and maintenance of the juſt proceedings of our Parliament; after the proſperous effects whereof, we expected the ſettlement of the grand ends of our Engagement, and ſo much the more, as being the promiſe of the Parliament, the vows of their affections, the price of our prayers, purſes, hazards, loſſes, baniſhments, and the blood of many thouſands our fellow ſervants in the work of God, freely ſacrificed in the quarrel of this Nation: what hath been done in the ſettlement of our Civil Rights, Peace, and wholſom Law, we bleſs God for; and the Parliament as his Inſtruments; nor can we but acknowledge, what hath been done by them in the cauſe of God, as their Acts againſt Adulteries, Fornication, Swearing, Drunkenneſs, Sabboth-breaking, Ordinances againſt Promoters of Heretical Doctrines, Acts againſt Renters or Blaſphemers; may the Lord increaſe the number of theſe things.

Anſw. If ye will own the wholſom Law, ye will own us, but this is but a pretence, for who owns the wholſom Law, denies all corruption; this is but a pretence, whereby ye make a colour to make them that live in the truth, to appear odious unto the world, ſetting forth your ſelves unto the world, Phariſee like, and there to make the pure truth odious, through your envious mindes; but the day doth declare all things, your end will make 1 Cor. 3. 13.

make it manifeſt, though you pretend your ſelves
1 Cor. 3. 13. to be Miniſters of the Goſpel, yet your ends will ſhew you to be bloody *Cains*, and it doth now begin to appear, the ſecond birth is brought forth, which doth not own your ſacrifices, this birth you
1 Cor. 15. 47, 48, 49. ſeek to ſlay.

Pr. Obj. Yet ſo it is, that in this County, ſeverall perſons proſelytes of one *Geo. Fox*, and *James Nayler*, do in the time of our Aſſemblies, ordinarily in a way of contempt and ſcorn, come in anong us, with their hats on; at time of our prayer or ſinging uſed in our Congregations, ſome of them ſhew violent actions in time of Sermon or prayer, or ſinging, and cry out aloud with horrible clamors, ſlanders, abuſes, reproaches againſt our Miniſters.

Anſw. That is falſe, for our friends ſhew no violent actions, but are againſt them, but come peaceably in; and if they be moved by the Lord to cry aloud, who art thou that wilt withſtand the Lord? Do not you read in the Scripture, that the Lord ſent his Prophets, and bad them
Iſa. 58. 1. cry aloud and ſpare not. And as for clamors we utterly deny, it is your own: and as for ſlanders, abuſes, reproaches, we utterly deny, it is your own, we are againſt all filthy minds, that give forth reproaches, but we ſpeak the ſame language the Scripture doth from the ſame Word that gave it forth; and your Miniſters which go in that
Iſa. 56. 10. 11. path, which all the holy men of God cried out againſt, we ſpeak the ſame language againſt them that they did, and by the ſame ſpirit, we ſee them take all people to record to judge, who have a light in their underſtandings, and the fear of the Lord

Lord to judge, do not your Priests bear rule by your means; and was it not a horrible filthy thing in the time of *Jeremy*? and is not the same held up in this age now? and do they not seek for their gain from their Quarters, greedy dumb dogs? Do not they take money for that which is not bread? And do they not now seek for the fleece &, cloath with the wooll, and make a prey of the people, which *Ezekiel* cryed wo against. Ier. 5. 30, 31. Ier. 10. 21.

And are you not Hirelings, which *Micah* cried against, and them that put not into your mouthes, you prepare warrre against them, sue them at the Law, and are you not called of men, Masters? Have not ye the chiefest places in the Assemblies? Stand praying in the Synagogues? And do you not lay heavy burdens upon the people, which Jesus Christ cried wo against such? [Are not you in the same steps here? Let the Scripture it self judg you; and do not you draw people to those things which there is no Scripture for, telling them of a Sacrament, for which there is no Scripture, telling them of sprinkling infants, which there is no Scripture for, telling people they are Ordinances; all such Ordinances we deny: but the Ordinances of God we own. And doth not the Scripture say, He that addes or diminishes, the plagues are added unto him? And were not the Galatians bewi ched who were drawn from the anointing within them, which God had commanded? And do not you draw people to the things there is no Scripture for, telling people they are Ordinances, and are not you in the same generation, bewitching people, drawing them from the Spirit of the Micah 3.11. Mat. 23. 6, 7, 8. Rev. 22, 18. Gal. 3. 1.

Lord within them, to follow your imagination and them that do not, you persecute them who obey the commands of God, and the Ordinances of Jesus Christ, to walk in the truth in the inward man, which is unknown to you in the world; but it is that the Scripture might be fulfilled, They shall be hated of all men for my names sake; and they through fained words, shall make merchandize of you, saith the Apostle, who go in the way of *Cain* to murther, who love the wages of unrighteousness, who have the Spirit of error, and causes people to erre, for the minde that goes from the pure within is erred, and that sets up *Baal* without, before God; but all whose mindes are guided by the Spirit of the Lord up to God, deny all *Baals* Priests, now do not say this is railing or false-accusing; in these steps are you, which the holy men of God cryed out against, read your selves, and let all men judge; and as for coming into your Synagogues with hats on when ye are singing of Psalms, thou Priest, hast not thou one or two caps on, and when ye read Psalms hats must be on, and when ye sing them hats must be off: here ye worship the works of your own hands. As *Davids* tremblings, quakings, wastings, weepings, roarings till his sight grew dim, and watered his bed with his tears, and roared all the day long, prophesies, praises, prayers, these you sing, having turned them into Rime, crying, Let us sing to the praise and glory of God, which is all to his dishonor: if one should see one of you lie in *Davids* condition weeping and roaring, and turn it into Metre, and go among a deal of ignorant people,

Mat.10.22.

2 Pet.2.3.13, 14,15.

Psal.6.23,6,7.

ple, and cry, let us ſing to the praiſe and glory of God, would you not ſay we made a Ryme of you? as you have made of David: All ſuch practiſes and ſingings we deny, but we will ſing with the Spirit, and with Grace and Underſtanding: The Apoſtles which you profeſs in words, you do not read that when they went into the world, they gave *Davids* Experiences in Metre to ſing, but was againſt all Traditions of men; and ſo are we now, with the ſame Spirit. 1 Cor. 14. 15. Mark 7. 13. Col. 2. 8.

Prieſts Petition. To the ſtirring up of woful tumults, evident diſturbance of the work, and the turning of the peaceable Aſſemblies of the Church of Chriſt into the groſſeſt confuſion.

Anſw. For ſhame never mention your Churches to be the Churches of Chriſt, which will ſo ſoon be turned into confuſion, do not ſo diſhonor the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and ſo little eſteem his Church, which is the Pillar and Ground of Truth; and can the Pillar and Ground of Truth be ſhaken? A Church muſt be that which is the Ground and Pillar of Truth; the Church of Chriſt needs not have a carnal weapon to maintain it, but it is now as it was; they who had received the ſubſtance came into the Aſſemblies, witneſſed forth the ſubſtance, and were haled forth, and bruiſed, and abuſed, ſtocked and ſtoned, ſo do you us now, almoſt ſmothered in your Aſſemblies; how dare you ſay, ye are peaceable, when ye are ſo in rage againſt a peaceable people, who come among you for your ſouls good, that ye may be directed unto the Lord, when eternally ye ſhall witneſs us, though now you would devour us. 1 Tim. 3 15. Acts, 7. 48. Acts 21. 30.

Prieſts Petition. That their deportent is ſuch, and with ſo continual violence againſt the moſt godly of our Miniſters, in all places in their travels, in the ſtreets, abuſing them with railing language, ſcornful behaviours, walking in the Markets with ſuch great numbers together.

Anſw. As for violence, we deny it, it is your own, you ſhew it daily, and in this Petition you make it appear: As for godly Miniſters, ſuch we ſet up, who are made Miniſters by the will of God, and not by the will of man; but ſuch as are made Miniſters by *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, ſuch we deny; they who are made Miniſters by the will of Godwill not perſecute any, but here you make your ſelves manifeſt not to be ſuch; for if ye were, ye would own us. As touching railing language, ſcornful behaviour, it is falſe, it is your own, and herein you do abuſe us; ſuch practiſes we deny, which are according to the courſe of the world: Was it not the practiſe of the Apoſtles to diſpute daily in the Markets, in the Schools, in the Synagogues, and their practiſe here you do deny, and ſhew your ſelves to be in that generation that perſecuted the Apoſtles, who now perſecutes us, where the ſame power is made manifeſt, but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, for every jot and tittle muſt be fulfilled.

Gal. 1. 1.

Epheſ. 2. 2.
Acts 19. 8.
Acts 17. 17.
Mat. 24. 34, 35

Prieſts Petition, And ſcarce paſſing by any not of their judgement, without abuſing words, that it cannot but ſhew us, as no ſmall Symptomes of bad deſigns, ſo no ſmall reaſon to provide for our ſecurity.

Anſw. As for abuſive words, it is falſe, it is the abuſive

abuſive minde that ſpeaks, which now appears to ſcandal the truth: Several of us, who be of one heart, meet together ſometimes in the Marker, and ſometimes in other places; and if we ſee pride and drunkenneſs, and be moved to reprove and exhort; ſee and hear curſed ſpeakers, ſwearers, moved to reprove and exhort them; or men fighting and brawling, cozening, cheating, deceitful marchandizing, lying and diſembling, which we ſay wo is upon, do you call this abuſive? and we bid them repent, and turn unto the Lord while they have time, and now to prize it, for the great day of the Lord is coming, wherein every one ſhall give an account: And the Apoſtle warned all, ſmall and great, to turn unto the Lord and repent, which we cannot but do the ſame, who have found mercy of the Lord, who brought us to repentance, and changed our lives; and this is it which you call abuſive: And poor creatures, ye need not ſeek for ſecurity, for there is none of them who are friends of the truth, and in the truth that will hurt you: Now do you ſhew your ſelves to walk in the Apoſtles practiſe, or quite againſt it? here you openly ſhew your ſelves to be men who would uphold iniquity and vice, and would not have it reproved, but perſecute ſuch who reprove the wicked; whoſe righteous ſouls are vexed, as juſt *Lots* was, with your filthy Converſation, who uphold iniquity, and live in it: Tis written, *The wicked ſhall fear, where there is no fear*; and did not the true Prophet ſay? *Curſed is he that makes fleſh his arm, and puts his ſtrength in man.*

Rom. 14. 12.

2 Pet. 2. 8. Prov. 10. 24. Jer. 17. 5.

Prieſts Petition, That it is their great deſign to ſtir up

up the ſpirits of people againſt the Miniſters of *England* in general, without diſtinction, ſetting forth and ſending abroad daily, almoſt Libels and ſlanders againſt the Office as needleſs.

Rom.8.10. *Anſw.* The Spirit of God, if it be raiſed up, we do witneſs it will teſtifie againſt you, and all your practiſes; and whereas we are moved to write abroad, ſhewing forth the errors and deceits of you, which as a ſcandal you call to be Libels: but if ever you own the Prophets, Chriſt and the Apoſtles, ye will own them, which are given forth by the ſame power and Spirit: and all your Offices which are made by man, and are of man, we deny, and ſlanders we deny, they are your own, and now you vent them forth.

Prieſts Petition. Terming them as or under the names of Antichriſts, Antichriſts Merchants, Tythe-Mongers, Robbers, Deceivers, Miniſters of the world, Prieſts, Murtherers, Conjurers, Devils, and attempting to make Proclamations in the open markets to the ſaid effect.

Anſ. Are you not Antichriſts? do not you act thoſe things Chriſt forbids, and upholds that which Chriſt doth forbid, ſhewing your ſelves to be Antichriſts? do not you mount up into the higheſt places in Aſſemblies, are called of men Maſters? which Chriſt forbids, and ſaid to his, be ye not called ſo: And do not you buy and ſell the Letter, make merchandize of it; when as the Miniſter of God ſaid, that the gift of God could not be bought and ſold for money; and ſaid he was in the gall of bitterneſs who thought to buy it: and here you ſhew your ſelves to be in the gall of bitterneſs,

Mat.23. 2 Pet.2.3.

Acts 8.18.23. 19,20.

terneſs, repent, repent, that the thoughts of your hearts may be changed: and *Job* ſaid, that the wiſdom of God cannot be bought and ſold for money, nor gold, nor pearls, nothing is to be compared unto it; and do not you ſhew your ſelves to be merchants of the Letter, for the gift of God cannot be bought and ſold: And do not you openly ſhew your ſelves to take Tythe of people, and do not walk according to the Law: *Levi*, who received Tythes, the ſtrangers, fatherleſs and widows were to come within his gate and be filled, which ye do not ſo, ſhewing the ſpirit of error, and yet would be maintained in your deceit, but God in his infinite love hath raiſed up a light, gathering his people from you, diſcovering your deceit.

Job 28.15,16

Deu. 26 12,13
Deut. 14.29.

Luke 1.79.

Are ye not Robbers? do not you ſteal the words of the Prophets, Chriſt and his Apoſtles, and ſell them for money; and ſo are Theives and Robbers which Ieſus Chriſt ſpoke of, which goes not in at the door, but climb another way; and that Generation perſecuted Chriſt, and here you ſhew your ſelves to be perſecuting them in whom he is riſen.

Jer.23.30.
Iohn 10.1.

Are ye not deceivers? when as you draw people to thoſe things God never commanded, and tell people they are Ordinances of God; As ſprinkling of infants, and ſaying the Steeple-houſe is the Church, and the houſe of God, and tells people ye are the Miniſters of God, when he never ſent you, but ſtudies a Devination of your own brain, and not from the mouth of the Lord: here you ſhew your ſelves to be Conjurers, and hold

Col.2. 22, 20,21.

hold up outward Temples, Traditions and Customs, Tythes, Formal Singing, Praying; do you not here shew your selves to be Ministers of the world; for what is acted outwardly is worldly, your original is worldly, your Hebrew, Latine and Greek is worldly, your Church is worldly; but the Saints Church is in God, as *Paul*, *Silvanus* and *Timotheus* to the Church of the *Thessalonians* which was in God: Do not you shew your selves to be murtherers, in the generation of the Priests *Cain* like? do you not shew it openly, do not ye seek to persecute and put in prison: some you have imprisoned, some you have haled out of your Assemblies, some ye have stoned and buffeted: do not you shew your selves to be of the generation with the Priests, whose Ministry was worldly, and so ever the Ministry of the Letter persecuted the Ministers of the Spirit: so it is now; here the Scripture is fulfilled.

1 Thess. 1. 1.
1 John 3. 15.

And are not you of the Devil? they that abide not in the truth, are of the Devil: and do not you shew your selves to be Devils, of the Devil, Murtherers; he was a murtherer from the beginning, and which of you can say, you come to the beginning, but are seeking now to destroy the innocent, a peaceable, harmless people, to bring them into prison, and into bondage; do not you shew your selves to be murtherers, seeking to devour; as the Jews, who said God was their Father, when they went about to kill Christ, and were of their father the Devil, doing the lusts of their father; which generation you shew your selves to be in, envying the righteous seed, where it is

2 John 1. 9.

John 8. 44.

is brought forth, but God of his infinite power and love, doth preserve his little ones from your hands, from devouring them, to him be all honor, and glory, and praise, who maintains his own truth, and sets up his own Kingdom, whose sword is his Word, and to it shall all Nations bow; though you and many others, who are now fighters against God, and would have the Magistrates to help you, tis hard for you to kick against the pricks; but God hath raised up a light in many of the Magistrates to see your deceits, and your envy is made appear. Heb. 4. 12. Acts 9. 4.

Priests Petition. That their main drift is, to engage the people against the Ministry by reason of Tythes, crying out with open clamor against Tythes, as Unlawful, Antichristian, to the necessary overthrowing of the Laws, to that purpose bringing an odium upon the Government, and tending to stir up sedition in the people, to withdraw their due obedience from the Laws and Government of *England.*

Answ. The receiving of Tythes is Antichristian: Are ye all blinde? did ever any of the Apostles or Christ receive Tythes, or commanded any such thing? was not he the end of the Law? and where the Spirit of Jesus Christ is, it testifies against you, who neither walk according to the Law nor Gospel: for whom he made Ministers, he sent them forth freely, without a bag, or stick, or scrip, without two coats, freely ye have received, freely give, the workman is worthy of his meat; bnt here's no Tythes, no Augmentations: now you are not here in the steps of them Mat. 10 10. 8.

whom Christ sent forth, but shews that you run before you be sent; and where the Spirit of the Lord is stired up in any, it cries against all such unrighteous wayes.

Whereas you speak of a necessary overturning the Law, therein you shew forth your weakness, and a mingle-mangle of your mind. As for bringing an *Odium* upon the government, it is false; for the righteous Law of God we honor, and set up in our souls, and that is to govern that which is unruly and unjust. As for stirring up sedition, as for drawing people from the righteous Law of God, that is your own condition under a pretence of making people believe we deny government and the law; that is false.

If you were as carefull and watchfull in your own Kingdom, over drunkards, blasphemers, swearers, fighters, liars, if you were as watchfull over them, then you might say you were friends of the government, and of the righteous law; but if any come into the markets, and reprove such things, or read a paper in the market against uncleanness, such you hale out, stone and persecute; herein you shew there is no friendship with the Law; but if a man bring a sieve of Ballads, or Jest books, Rimes or Theames, and sing these in the markets; these are suffered, these Libels are not minded; which shews now your venome against the truth, and against them that speak from the mouth of the Lord.

Pr. Petition. That besides what others perhaps may know of the blasphemies of them, we do plainly see and know, that their practises do exceedingly

ceedingly ſavour of Sorcery, the quakings, ſwellings, roarings, foamings, and ſuch as we never heard of, but ſuch as were poſſeſſed of the Divel, of perſons at their meetings, and eſpecially of young children. Gal. 3. 1. Jam. 2. 4.

Anſw. You can judge no otherwiſe, being of the generation of them that perſecuted Chriſt, calling truth blaſphemy; but blaſphemy we do deny, ſorcery practices we deny, and we ſee you in that geeration, in witchcraft and ſorcery, drawing people to follow your invention, who have painted your ſelves with others words, myſtery, witchcraft, all who are drawn from the Spirit of the Lord within, to follow your imaginations, are bewitched by you with evill thoughts.

As for quakings, roarings, tremblings, you ſay you never heard of, and before you profeſſed your ſelves to be Miniſters of the Goſpel, and yet are ignorant of the Scriptures, you are blind, and do you make your ſelves ſo openly blind and ignorant, as not to hear of quaking? *Moſes* when he heard the Lord ſpeak unto him, he trembled, and durſt not behold; and *Moſes* quaked and exceedingly feared, and the whole mount quaked. And *Daniel* when he heard, trembled, and his breath and ſtrength was gone. And *Habakkuk* he trembled, & quivered, his belly ſhook, that he might reſt in the day of trouble. And *Paul* he trembled when he came among the *Corinthians*, he was with them in much weakneſs and trembling, and he bade the Saints work out their own ſalvation with fear and trembling. And *Job* he trembled, Acts 7. 32. Dan. 10. 11. Habak. 5. 16. Acts 9 6. 1 Cor. 2. 3. Phil. 2. 12. Job. 4. 14.

Psal.119. 120. Isai.66.2. 5. and *David* he quaked and trembled, his bones did quake. And *Isaiah* said, Hear the word of the Lord, all ye that tremble at his word. And Christ said, Your brethren that hated you, and cast you out for my names sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified; but he shall appear to your joy, but they shall be ashamed. And do not you cast us out in your mouthes, as the filth and off-scouring of the world? Is not here the Scripture fulfilled? Jer.5.22. And *Jeremy* which was sent to speake unto the people the word of the Lord, said, Hear this, a foolish people without understanding, will ye not fear me? will ye not tremble at my presence, who have placed the sand for the bound of the sea, and such a people then upheld Priests that bare rule by their means, so doe you now. And *David* he roared, and watered his bed with his Psal.6. tears, and his flesh wasted till he could number his bones; will you say that all these were possessed with the Divell? The same power of God we witness now, as was then, and we witness the Scripture fulfilled, and have a cloud of witnesses, which are recorded in the Scriptures, it shews that Heb.12.1. they have not heard his voyce which shakes the Psal.2.19,20. earth; who denies the Letter, are not Ministers of the Letter.

Pr. Pet. And Giving too sad a suspition of it, and the more by reason of the known suspitions upon *Geo. Fox* to deal with the Divell before ever he came to us in these parts.

Answ. Whereas you speak of a known suspition, you have a suspition and know nothing; he that knows doth not suspect, but hath an infallible

lible judgment to judge truth from error (with evil thoughts ye judge, as they did of Jesus Christ, who called the Master of the House *Beelzebub*; which generation it appears you are of. And as for dealing with the Divel, it is your own; for I do witness the works of the Divell destroyed: for where Iesus Christ is made manifest, the works of the Divell are destroyed; therefore do you persecute me, because I testifie against you, that your deeds are evill. And dealing with the Divel I utterly deny, and the works of darkness; for he that is born of God sins not, neither can he, because the seed of God remains in him, and the evill one cannot touch him: but if they call the master of the house *Beelzebub*, what will they do unto the children? So it was, Jesus Christ, Lord and Master, had that portion of the world, it is the same now where he is made manifest in any, the same generation, persecutes, it is no strange thing.

Jam. 2. 4. Mat. 10. 15.

1 John 3. 8, 9.

Mat. 10. 25.

Pr. Petition. That we know the Principles of some of their followers, are against subjection to Magistrates, against distinction amongst men, and the practices of the most is such, that there is a denying of relations, children professedly refusing subjection to their Parents, and servants to their masters.

Answ. Whereas you say we are not subject to justice, that is false; for conscience sake let every soul be subject to the higher power: for all power is of God, and he that resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: So for conscience sake, we honor justice, and all men in the Lord; but as for respecting persons, we deny, for the Scripture denies

Rom. 13. 1, 2.

denies the same, he that respects persons commits sin, and is a transgressor of the Law; He that was
James 2. 9. Rev. 22. 15. a minister of Iesus Christ, said this, Here you shew your selves to be without, and no ministers of God, but would have others to transgress the law of God. O false accusers! where do any walk stubbornly against their parents. but for conscience sake they cannot yeeld to those things which carnally they would have them act, as follow the worship of the world without them, and not worworship God in Spirit, and set up your teachers of
John 4. 23. Luke 1. 79. Mat. 21. 16. Mat. 11. 25. the world. God hath raised up a light in many young children, draws them to himselfe, and you spue forth your venom against them servants and children, because they will not hold you up, and now when you are like to fall. If Christs words should be fulfilled where he saith, Call no man father upon earth; and he that loves Father or
Mat. 23. 9. Mat. 10. 37. mother more then me, is not worthy of me, what would you say to that? Fathers and mothers pass away, and that love that is in the flesh; but the Father, the Lord God of Heaven and Earth, is for ever, and who owns him, will not walk in disobedience to any thing, but the evill; and if God put
Acts 2. 18. into the mouth of any servants to speak, that doth not take them from faithfulness in the outward to their masters where they are: But you accusers, which have the form of godliness, but deny the power, ever shew forth your selves; Where do any of the servants masters go to complain to the
1 Tim. 5, 13. Magistrates? But you Priests shew your selves busie about other mens matters, only to hold up your own profits, and accuse the just with many false and scandalous slanders.

Pr.

Pr. Petition. That vve are ſenſible vvhat confuſions, diviſions, tumults and parties are made by theſe mens diſturbances, and cannot but with ſadneſs of ſpirit, remember that ſuch ſmall beginnings have in other nations grown to eat out their peace, and ſtagger the foundation of their States, as alſo to lay it before you, vvhat advantage it gives for the common enemy, weakens the Parliaments intereſt in the peoples hearts.

Anſw. Truth ever ſtirred up confuſion vvhere it vvas though it lay cloſe till truth came, as you read in the Scriptures, Chriſt came to put fire in the earth; and the Apoſtles vvhere they came in the markets or Synagogues, vvho vvitneſſed forth the ſubſtance, to draw people to it, to ſerve the Lord in newneſs of life, to come up into the everlaſting truth and peace, then every one ſtood up in his own imagination and thoughts, as you do now to oppoſe the truth, and ſaid they would turn the vvorld up ſide down. Luke 12. 49.

Pr. Petition. To ſee ſuch perſons unreſtrained, creats diſcontents, and laies a clear foundation for civill wars, or at leaſt advantage to the *Hollanders*, or *French* now in arms againſt us, to carry on their wicked intentions vvith greater facility.

Anſw. The intention of your mind is to have truth reſtrained, vvhich takes away the occaſions of all vvarrs, and brings into love and true heartedneſs, and there is nothing diſcontent vvith us, but that vvhich doth not abide in the truth. And vvheras thou ſpeakeſt of vveakning the Parliaments intereſt, and laying a foundation of new vvar: This is hatched in your own minds, ſo to incenſe

incenſe ignorant people, it is your own intereſt that you fear; for if the Parliament ſhould take away your Tythes and your means, little love would appear to them; for it hath been already ſaid by you, that the Parliament hath opened a gap for all blaſphemings, but the hands of evil doers we do not ſtrengthen; and you are the men that raiſe up civill warres againſt them that live peaceably and love peace, and go about to take away the occaſions of all warres. For the world raiſes up a perſecution and a civill warre againſt a peaceable people, whoſe intents are to bring up all to God, to live in unity one with another, to be of one heart and one mind, and one ſoul to ſerve God in newneſs of life, whom Chriſt Ieſus hath ſet free from the Traditions and Rudiments of the world. Now who are ſet free from the world, you bring under your bondage, and perſecute them, if they will not obey you, ſhewing forth the nature of *Pharaoh*, not letting Iſrael go to ſerve God.

Prieſts Petition. Therefore as you are Chriſtians and *Engliſh* Magiſtrates, we are freemen born of *England*, and deſiring ſomthing more as inſtruments under God with others of your preſent peace, do beg an chalenge from you.

Anſw. Now you ſhew your complements: we are no breakers of peace, who owns the peace, owns us; and he that bears this ſword that cuts down all corruption and filthineſs, owns us. For there is no peace to the wicked ſaith God, and this you ſhall all find who would have peace to that which muſt die, it is your eternall peace, and

Rom. 13.4.

eternall

eternal ſouls good, that we are moved of the Lord to ſpeak unto you for, which eternally you ſhall witneſs.

Prieſts Petition. 1. Your timely looking unto the Peace of England, that it ſeems too evidently to be endeavored to be rent aſunder.

Anſw. Juſtices that keeps peace, we honor and ſet up, and wait all for the peace; but your intention in this, is to have truth ſuppreſſed, and wickedneſs flouriſh, and the works of darkneſs not diſcovered: here is Juſtice weakned, and the hand of evil doers ſtrengthened againſt the innocent, which ever the chief Prieſts did; for they asked to releaſe *Barabas*, and crucifie Jeſus the innocent, and gathered the Elders againſt him, to ſeek to put him to death; ſo do you now, where he is made manifeſt, who are of the ſame generation.

Prieſts Petition. 2. The protection of our ſelves, and our Miniſters from violence, or diſturbance in our worſhip of God, and ſuppreſſion of offenders.

Anſw. Where did the Saints or Miniſters of God ſeek to a Magiſtrate to protect their worſhip? but Acts 24.5. on the contrary, they were perſecuted of ſuch, which the Jews and Prieſts did incenſe them to, which is the ſame you do now; as the Jews who came againſt Paul, and ſaid he was a peſtilent fellow, a mover of ſedition, a ſtirrer up of hereſie, a Ring-leader of the Sect of the Nazarens, turning the world up ſide down, and teaches contrary to our Cuſtom, and this holy place; he told them, God dwelled not in Temples made with hands,

Acts 17.24,25 neither was he worſhipped with mens hands, which outward cuſtom you are upholding now, in the ſame nature that they were in; when the Jews brought *Paul* to *Felix*, holding up their own cuſtoms by an outward Law, as impriſoning him, *Paul* had no Law to maintain him, but the Law of God, and the eternal Word to guide him; and the ſame we do witneſs, againſt all the powers of men, but the power of God let every ſoul be ſubject too.

Mat. 23.4. Gal. 1.1. Iſaiah 33. 22.

Prieſts Petition. 3. Execution of the Statute againſt Sabboth-breakers, and ſuch as under pretence of Religion, are in no Religious Aſſemblies that day.

Anſw. All that live in pretence of Religion, and not in power, is nothing; all that owns pure Religion, owns us; and all that owns the Sabboth, the eternal Reſt, the eternal day, owns us; but while people have met together to ſet up you, who in the week day invented faſhions, and on that day put it on, ſo the eye goes out looking at new faſhions, and in the week day follows oathes, drunkenneſs, prophaneneſs, pleaſures, and ſuch practiſes we deny; but to live righteouſly, ſoberly in this preſent world, this we own; and whom you finde wrangling, walking in uncleanneſs, curſed ſpeaking, fighting, drunkenneſs, upon ſuch you ſhould lay the Law: for the Law was made for the Lawleſs, but you pretended Miniſters, ſeek to bring upon us bounds, who are redeemed from theſe ways, through the love and power of God; if you were the Miniſters of God, you would go about to bring people from under all Law, up to God,

God, but you shew your selves to be of that generation which shut the Kingdom of heaven from men, which Kingdom is a Kingdom of peace, this we witness. Mat. 23. 13.

Priests Petition. 4. Charge to all differing judgements, to meet together each Lords day peaceably, and not to spread themselves to several places for disturbance.

Answ. If any be moved by the Lord, to come into your Assemblies, to speak the word of the Lord unto them, for your souls eternal happiness, would you have this limitted? this is your intent, to limit the Holy one of Israel: As for disturbance, we all deny, and to draw people up to God, that we do, out of all carnal ways; for God is a Spirit, and will be worshipped in spirit, and in truth, and this worship we own; and who are here, denies all your Temples and Priests; herein is one Priest, Jesus Christ, the Bishop of our souls; for they who received the Substance, denyed the Priests, and they met together the first day of the week, and when any was moved to go forth, they went and witnessed forth the Substance to them that lived in the Shadows: this we do, and now to deny you Priests (being ye cannot witness your call) the Temple which God never commanded, they that are in the Temples of God do: This dark Ministry hath long reigned over people, and kept them in bondage, under imitated forms, but now God is raising a light in his people, to gather them up to himself, to live in love and unity one with another. Luke 1. 79.

Pr. Pet. 5. Suppression of persons living without any calling.

Anſw. Then this ſuppreſſion muſt come upon your ſelves; for you cannot witneſs that ever you were called of God, or ſent forth by Jeſus Chriſt to preach the everlaſting truth; for if you were, you would not raiſe up perſecution againſt them that witneſs a call from the Lord: who of you receive whipping, ſtocking, ſtoning, priſoning, buffeting, and haling us out of your Aſſemblies, who do pretend your ſelves to be Miniſters of Chriſt: wait to have that ſuppreſſed in your ſelves that perſecutes, then you will not ſeek to oppreſs the juſt for your own ends, that ye might be maintained in your beaſtly worſhip, and your Antichriſtian ways.

Prieſts Petition. 6. And your witneſſing againſt all blaſphemers of the name of God, eſpecially ſuch as are contained in the Acts of Parliament.

Anſw. If you would have them witneſs againſt all Blaſpemers, then they muſt witneſs againſt you, who calls evil good, and good evil, and vents forth ſo many Blaſphemies againſt them who live in the power of truth.

Prieſts Petition. And if the application of any effectual remedy, lie not within your power, that you will dleaſe to joyn with us in this deſire, and tranſmit this cauſe to the knowledge of the Right Honorable the Councel of State, as a cauſe ſo nearly concerning the peace of *England*, and we ſhall ever pray, &c.

Anſw. You would have a Law or an Act forth, under a pretence to ſuppreſs the truth, under the name of Blaſpemy, becauſe it doth ſhake your Kingdom, who live in your ſelf-ends: for ranting ways

ways and blaſpemy, we utterly deny, and takers of Gods name in vain, which you do in every word you ſpeak, becauſe ye know him not: he is merciful to the juſt and unjuſt, but you ſhew your cruelty againſt the juſt, and perſecute them.

Here you ſhew forth your ſerpentine nature, and would beget others in the ſame envy to joyn with you, to be the ſtronger to tread down the truth; as it is written, The Beaſt ſhall make war againſt the Lamb, but the Lamb get the victory, praiſes, praiſes for ever, be to the Lord God Almighty; you ſay the Lords Prayer, *Forgive us, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us*; but you perſecute them that ſeeks your ſouls health, ſeeking you, and not yours, their prayers are an abomination to the Lord. And what is Right and Honorable, will deny all you, and your Petitions; for they who owns God and Chriſt owns us; who owns peace owns us, and we them in our ſouls; but all the pretenders of God and godlineſs, who live in uncleanneſs and ungodlineſs, denying the power that cuts down iniquity, which we own and ſet up: Therefore all people whoſe mindes are now bent to raiſe up perſecution, and Prieſts who ſtands railing in your Pulpits, incenſing ignorant people againſt harmleſs innocent people: Are not you laying here a foundation for a new war? and ſo digging a pit for your ſelves to fall into; you need never fear them who live in the power of truth, to raiſe up an outward war, but it is your falſe ſuggeſtion, to incenſe people to make them believe lies; but God hath raiſed up a light in people, and in Magiſtrates, which diſcerns all your intents.

Prov. 28. 9. Iohn 5. 44. Prov. 20. 3. Rev. 14. 7.

An

An Order that was ordered at the Seſſions at *Appleby* in *Weſtmerland.*

ORdered, That whoſoever ſhall hereafter diſturb any Miniſter in the Publike Exerciſe of his Miniſtry, within this County, or give any ſtandalous, opprobrious terms againſt any of them, ſhall be apprehended by the Conſtables or Church wardens of the place, where the offence ſhall be committed, and brought before the next Juſtice of the peace, to finde Sureties for his or her good behaviour, and upon refuſing to finde ſuch Sureties, to be committed to the common Goal, till willingly they ſhall do the ſame, or be from thence delivered by due courſe of Law: And likewiſe, all ſuch perſons as meet in great numbers and Aſſemblies in the night time, within this County, ſhall be apprehended, and bound to good behaviour as aforeſaid.

Prieſts. Order. ORdered, That whoſoever ſhall hereafter diſturb any Miniſter in the Publike Exerciſe of his Miniſtry within this County.

Anſw. The Law of the Land doth give freedom to ſpeak, after the man hath done: and here you ſeem to make a new Parliament, and new Laws, contrary to the Law of the Land; and here you ſhew your ſelves not to do Juſtice, not acting according to the Law of the Land, and the Law of God: *Moſes* ſaid, who witneſſed forth the Law, and was Ruler in the Law, he wiſhed that all Gods people were Prophets: now he was faithful in the Law of God, which God had commanded

1 Cor. 14. 30, 31. Num. ii. 28, 29 Num. 12. 7. Heb. 3. 2.

ed him: and here thou ſhewſt to act contrary to the Law of the Land, and turn'ſt thy ſelf out of thy juſtice: And the Miniſter of God ſaid, that all might ſpeak in the true Church, and if any thing were revealed to him that ſate by, let the firſt hold his peace; for you may all propheſie one by one, that all may be edified, and God may be glorified; for the ſpirits of the Prophets are ſubject to the Prophets: and here you do ſhew your ſelves to be no Prophets, nor no Miniſters, and your Church no Church; if any ſhould come into your Aſſemblies, and ſit by, and ſomething be revealed to him, and he ſay, Let the other hold his peace; and you ſay, he diſturbs the Miniſter: here you would quench the Spirit, and limit the holy one: And here is the Scripture fulfilled upon you; If they ſhould ſpeak you would ſcourge them in your Synagogues, nay, ſtone them, beat them, and impriſon them, and mock them: and is not Jeſus Chriſts words fulfilled here? And they ſhall perſecute you: and now you ſhew it forth; bluſh for ſhame, and never take him for a cloak, for you are in the ſame Generation of them that perſecuted them who lived in the truth; be ye witneſſes unto your ſelves, that you are in the ſame nature that they were in, that hal'ed *Paul* out of the Temple; how dareſt thou then take his words into thy mouth: O brazen face beaſt, that doth not abide the truth!

1 Cor. 14.30, 31.32.

1 Theſſ. 5.19. Mat. 10.17.23 Heb. 11.36,37. Acts 7,58. 59.

Gen. 4 8. Mat. 23.33,34, 35. Acts 21.30. 2 Pet. 2.12.

Prieſts Order, Or give any ſcandalous, opprobious terms againſt any of them, ſhall be apprehended by the Conſtables or Church Wardens of the place, where the offence ſhall be committed.

Anſw.

Answ. That which you call ſcandalous terms, is the truth upon the deceit, according to Scripture: For *Paul* ſaid, they were bewitched, them that were drawn from the Spirit of the Lord within them, to carnal circumciſion without them: ſo do you bewitch the people now, as ſprinkling of infants, and telling them of a Sacrament, which there is no Scripture for, and drawing them from their Teacher within them; for *Jeremiah* ſaid, they bear rule by their means, and held up the horrible filthy thing that was committed in the Land; and *Iſaiah* ſaid, they were greedy dumb dogs, which could not bark, which never had enough, ſeeking for their gain from their quarters: And all people conſider, do not all the Prieſts of the world bear rule by their means, and ſeek for their gain from their quarter: we ſpeak the truth, we have a cloud of witneſſes: and *Micah* ſaid, the Prieſts preached for hire, and he that did not put into their mouthes, they prepared war againſt him: Do not you Prieſts ſue men at the Law, if they do not put into your mouthes? nay, of your own Church: And yet profeſſes your ſelves to be Teachers of Chriſt: O for ſhame bluſh! Paul that was a Miniſter of Chriſt, ſaid to the Saints that went to Law, there was not a wiſe man among them: and here thou ſhewſt thy ſelf to be no Miniſter of Chriſt, no not to walk according to the Letter, no not a wiſe man. Jeſus Chriſt ſaid, Wo unto you Scribes and Phariſees, hypocrites, them that were called of men Maſters, and ſo are you; them that had the chiefeſt places in the Aſſemblies, and ſo have you; ſtand praying in

Gal. 3. 1.

Jer. 5. 30, 31.

Iſa. 56. 10, 11.

Micah 3. 5.

1 Cor. 6. 1, 5.

in the Synagogues, and ſo do you; and vvith a pretence make long prayers, devouring Widows houſes, and Ieſus Chriſt cried vvo againſt ſuch, and you hold up thoſe things which Chriſt doth forbid, and you do make men believe you are Miniſters of Chriſt, and that Chriſt hath ſent you, and act thoſe things vvhich Chriſt doth forbid, and the ſame wo is upon you that was upon them, that held up thoſe practiſes; and the Apoſtle ſaid they had forſaken the right vvay, vvo unto them, for they have gone in the vvay of *Cain*, and run greedily after the error of *Balaam*. Are not you in envy like *Cain*, do not you ſhew it forth, and run after the vvages of *Balaam*, for gifts, rewards, and covetouſneſs, vvho make merchandiſe upon the people, and as *Ezekiel* ſaid, they ſeek after the Fleece, and eat the Fat, and cloath vvith the Wooll, and kill them that were fed, and made a prey upon them, and devoured them. But as the Lord ſaid, I vvill gather them from their mouths, and feed them upon the mountains. And this Scripture we witneſſe to be fulfilled, praiſe and honor be to the Lord. And you Prieſts do not you ſeek after the wooll? Will you make a lye of Scripture? Friends, do not ſay this is railing, for I ſpeak the truth, and have a cloud of witneſſes, the prophets and Apoſtles which ſpoke from the ſame Word which is made manifeſt, and lets us ſee the deceits as they ſaw them, and cry againſt them; and for Sions ſake we cannot hold our peace.

Mat.23.6,7,8, 10,23.

2 Pet.2.15.3. Iude 11.

Ezek.34.23: 10.14.

Iſai.62.1.

Order. And brought before the next Iuſtice of the peace.

Anſw. The Prophets and the Apoſtles that

witneſſed forth theſe things, were haled to priſon, and before the Magiſtrates, as you read in the Scripture; ſo here is the Scripture fulfilled, by the ſame generation, *Paul* was haled out of the Temple, and was had to priſon, who witneſſed forth the ſubſtance of all Types, figures, and ſhadow. And though you have gotten *Pauls* words, you ſhew your ſelves to be of the ſame generation, haling them out of the Temple. Be witneſſes againſt your ſelves, that you are perſecuters of the power of truth.

Acts 21.34. Acts 12.4,5. Acts 16.22, 23,24. Acts 21.30,31

Pr. Petition. To find ſureties for his or her good behaviour; and upon refuſe to find ſuch ſureties, to be committed to the common Goal, till willingly they ſhall do the ſame, or be from thence delivered by due courſe of Law.

Anſw. Who are redeemed by the pretious blood of Jeſus Chriſt, from their vain converſations, who live up to God, who are the Miniſters of God, guided by the Spirit of God, need not not have a law laid upon them, which is made for the lawleſs, to bind them to good behaviour. The end of our miniſtry is to bring all men from under the occaſions of all laws into good behaviour, to ſerve God in newneſs of life. For the law is made to bind them to good behaviour, who walk in drunkenneſs, ſwearing, and fighting, and this is at liberty, where there is misbehaviour, and you lay your law upon us, which you cannot accuſe; ſo *Barabbas* is ſet at liberty, and Chriſt is perſecuted and priſoned; and here you would lay your law upon them whom you cannot accuſe: therfore wo nnto you liars, who pervert the counſell of God.

Mat.23. 31. 1 Pet.1,18, 19 Phil. 3.20. Rom.8. 14. Rom.7 6. Gal.3.19. Iam.4.1. Matth 27. 26. Acts 13. 10,

Pr.

Pr. Petition. And likewise all such persons as meet in great numbers and assemblies in the night time within this County, shall be apprehended and bound to good behaviour, as aforesaid.

Answ. This law it seems is made new, while we met together, to card, to dance in Alehouses, to vain pleasures, we were not accused; but now all these practises are denied, who are gathered by the spirit of the Lord, to exhort one another day and night, both which is according to the Saints practice, and Rule; *Paul* preached untill midnight, and they met together and did exhort one another, and preached one to another, and builded up one another in the most holy faith; and herein we witness the Scripture fulfilled amongst us, praised be the Lord: by this you would not have us to walk according to the Scripture, wherein you bring us to misbehaviour, and we see and witness you are the same generation as they were in that persecuted *Paul* and the Saints then which met together in the night time. If *Paul* and the Saints were here now, you which have got the form of words, you would do it unto them, as you do nnto us; for all is one.

Heb. 3. 13. Act. 20. 7, 8, 9 Jude 20 1 Pet. 4. 10.

Some Pleadings that passed between Justice Benson, *and some of the Bench concerning* James Nayler.

AT the Sessions of the peace holden at *Appleby* the 11 day of January 1652. upon the commitment

mitment of *James Nayler*, it being alledged that the words by him ſpoken, were not within the Act againſt Blaſphemy, nor againſt any Law. It was replied by two of the Iuſtices, that rather then the ſaid *James Nayler* ſhould go at liberty, and abroad in the County, they would ſtand to the hazard of a fine to be impoſed upon them by the Iudges of the Aſſizes, or words to the ſame effect; and another of the Iuſtices ſaid openly, That they rather committed him upon the Miniſters petition, (though no oath of the truth of any particular therein contained was made) then upon the Indictment, and upon making the Order againſt the people of Gods meeting peaceably in the night ſeaſon, it being urged that the Parliament had given liberty of meeting: it was replied, that it was no matter, they would in their diſcretions reſtrain their meetings on the night time, or words the ſame in effect. Another Iuſtice who gave the charge, who was formerly in arms againſt the Parliament, the moſt part of his charge was compoſed of nothing elſe but railing againſt the people of God, whom by way of reproach he called Quakers: the truth of theſe particulars will be atteſted upon oath. Likewiſe Iuſtice *Pearſon* when I parted with him, told me, that he muſt give an account at *Newcaſtle* to the Miniſters and others, of their proceedings.

Jervis Benſon.

It was ordered by the Juſtices at Appleby, *That* Iames Nayler *and* Francis Howgill *ſhould ſtay in priſon till*

till the petitions be answered, I was moved to answer them, and we could not have a Copy of the petitions from Tho. Kilner *the Clerk of the Peace, but we must pay four shillings and six pence for them, which we knew was oppression.*

Priests Cruelty.

THe chief Priests were ever the greatest persecuters of the truth, and under the name of profession, sought always to destroy the seed of God where ever it was made manifest, and they are the same still, vvhere ever the seed of God is raised up, then they in whom the seed of the Serpent is head, seek to devour it. The Dragon not having power to devour the man child, yet he wil stil persecute the woman in vvhom he was brought forth. When Iesus Christ vvas born, all Ieruſalem vvas moved and troubled, and vvhen *Herod* demanded vvhere Christ should be born, the chief Priests and Scribes of the people told him, in *Bethlehem*, and in all the coasts thereof Iesus Christ shewed to his Disciples, that he was to suffer many things of the Elders and chief Priests, and Scribes, and be killed of the chiefe Priests and Scribes: vvhen they saw the vvonderfull things that Jesus Christ did, and that little children did confess him, they were sore displeased, the chief Priests and Elders of the people came unto Christ and he was preaching, and asked, By what authority dost thou these things, & who gave thee that authority? The chief Priests and Pharisees sought

Rev. 12. 3, 4, 5, 13.

Mat. 2. 3, 4, 5, 16.

Mat. 16. 21

Mat. 21. 15,

Vers. 23.

to

to lay hands on Jesus for speaking the truth; Iesus told his Disciples, that he should be betrayed into the hands of the chief Priests, and Scribes, and they would condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge, and to crucifie. The chief Priests, Scribes and Elders assembled to the place of the highest Priests, and consulted that they might take Iesus by subtilty, and kill him. The chief Priests hired *Judas* to betray Christ. The chief Priests and Elders of the people set a great multitud with swords and staves to take Iesus; and when he was taken, they led him to the high Priests, where the Scribes and Elders were assembled; the chief Priests and Elders, and all the Councell sought false witnes s again Iesus to put him to death: The high Priest when he saw that he could not find witnes s to condemn him, then he arose, and provoked him to speak, that he might ensnare him in his words; but when Iesus held his peace, then the High Priest did adjure him by the living God, to tell whether he were the Son of God or no. And when he witnessed forth the truth, the high Priest rent his cloaths, and said, he hath spoken blasphemy, what further need have we of witnesses? And from that they concluded he was worthy of death, and then they spat in his face, and mocked him. And when the morning was come, all the chief Priests and Elders of the People took counsel against Iesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him they delivered him to *Pilat*. When *Judas* brought again the thirty pieces of silver, the chief Priests confessed it to be the price of blood

Mat. 22. 18, 19.
Mat. 26. 14, 15
57, 59, &c.

Mat. 27, 2.

blood, and took conſell how to diſpoſe of it. The chief Prieſts and Elders accuſed Chriſt before *Pilat* of many things; *Pilat* knew that for envy they had delivered him. The chief Prieſts perſwaded the people to take *Barabbas*, and deſtroy Ieſus. The The chief Prieſts mocked Ieſus on the croſs, with the Scribes and Elders, and ſaid, He truſted in *God*, let him deliverhim now if he wou'd have him; for he ſaid, I am the Son of God. The chief Prieſts called Chriſt a deceiver: The chiefe Prieſts and Elders deviſed a lie, and gave large mony to the Soldiers to report it, and promiſed them ſecurity in ſo doing.

Verſ. 6. Verſ. 12, 13, 18. 41. 43 Mat. 28. 11, 12, 13, 14.

The chief Prieſts and the Captain of the Temple come upon the Apoſtles, and being grieved that they preached through Ieſus the reſurrection of the dead, they laid hands on them, and put them in hold; and the next day the high Prieſt, and all his kindred gathered together, and when he had ſet them in the middeſt, they asked them by what vowes and by what means they had done this: and though they could not deny the power, yet they agreed to threaten the Apoſtles leſt they truth ſhould ſpread any further. The high Prieſt, and they that were with him, were filled with indignation, becauſe of the works done by the Apoſtles, and put them in the common Goal. The high Pieſt called the Councel, and all the Senate of the children of Iſrael, againſt the Apoſtles, and ſent to the priſon, to have them brought; and when they were come, the high Prieſt ſaid, Did not we ſtrictly command you to teach no more in this name. And when the Apoſtles did ſtil witneſs forth

Acts 4. 1, 2, 3, 6, &c. Acts 17 18, 27, 28. 53.

Acts 7.1. Acts 9.1,2, 21. forth the truth, they took counsell to slay them. The High Priest examined *Stephen*, and for witnessing forth the truth, he was stoned to death. *Saul* had letters from the High Priest, whereby to persecute the Saints, and to bring them bound of the chief Priests. The High Priest commanded to smite *Paul* on the mouth for speaking truth. Fourty men having sworn to murder *Paul*, came to the chief Priest for help to act it. The High Priest descended with the Elders, and a certain Orator, who was to inform against *Paul*. The chief Priests and Elders informed *Festus*, and desired judgment against *Paul*. The Priests, and the Prophets, and all the people said, *Jeremy* thou shalt surely die, because he spoke the word of the Lord. The Priests and the Prophets accused *Jeremy* to the Princes, saying, This man is worthy of death; yea both Priest and Prophet are prophane, yea in my house I have found their wickedness, saith the Lord; yea his watchmen are all blind, they are ignorant, yea they are greedy Doggs, that can never have enough, they are Shepeards that cannot understand, they all look for their gain from their quarters. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill our selves with strong drink, and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant. Awake ye drunkards, and weep and howl all ye drinkers of wine, gird your selves and lament you Priests, howl you Ministers of the Altar, they build up Sion with blood, and Ierusalem with iniquity, the Heads thereof judge forrewards, and the Priests thereof teach for hire, and the Prophets thereof divine for money, yet will they

Acts 23.2,14. Acts 24 .2. Acts 25. 15. Ier. 26.8.11. Ier.23.11. Isa.56,10,11, 12. Joel 1.5,13. Micah 3.10.

they lean upon the Lord, and say, is not the Lord amongst us, no evil can come upon us: and now ye Priests, this Commandment is for you, If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of Hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and will curse your blessings, yea, I have cursed them already, because you do not lay it to heart: but behold I will corrupt their seed, and spread dung upon their faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts, and one shall take you away with it: And ye shall know, that I have sent this Commandment unto you, that my Covenant might be with *Levi*, saith the Lord of Hosts: A wonderful, a horrible thing is committed in the Land, the Prophets prophesie falsly, and the Priests bear rule by their means, & my people love to have it so, but what will you do in the end thereof? for from the least of them to the greatest of them, they are given to Covetousness, and from the Prophet even unto the Priest, every one dealeth falsly: They have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people deceitfully, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace: Were they ashamed when they had committed abominations? nay they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush; therefore they shall fall amongst them that fall, at the time that I visit them, they shall be cast down, saith the Lord.

Mic.3.10,11,

Mal.2.1,2,3,4

Jer.5.30,31.

Jer.6.13,14,15

I was moved to write this, after the tryal at *Lancaster*.

An Exhortation to the People.

FRiends, do not call this railing, because we use plainness of speech, and not with fained words, nor sow pillows under your elbows, as the false Prophets did, as you read in the Scripture; but we use the same language of the Prophets, Christ and the Apostles, who spoke against fained humbleness, as it is as the Scripture saith, They go on in the way of Cain, and run greedily after the error of Balaam, and many shall follow their pernicious ways, of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of: O all friends and people, see if there be not something within you, which shews you sin and evil, and the deceits of your own hearts; which if you do hearken to it, and love it, you will love Christ: for he is the light, and hating this light, you hate Christ, because your deeds are evil, and will not bring your works to the light, least the light should reprove them: and here is your condemnation, the light within you, and it is not a Chapter nor a Verse without you: And loving this light, it will bring you off all the worlds ways and worships, to worship God: for they walked in their own ways, which spent their money for that which was not bread, and there you are in your own ways; and it will draw you out of all the worlds Churches, into the Church in God: and wait in this light, and it will gather all your hearts together, to live in unity one with another; and it will lead you to the everlasting day of the Lord; and walking in that light, there will

will be no occasion of stumbling: for being disobedient to the light, there will be stumbling at noon day: Therefore all people prize your time, this is the day of your visitation and salvation; and if ever you own a clean & pure conscience you will own us; and if ever you come to know Jesus Christ, you will own us; and if ever you own the Lord God of heaven and earth, and come to know him, and worship him, you will then own us, and know us; and if ever you own the life of the Prophets and the Apostles, you will then own us to be sent of God, and of God; and we seek not yours, but your saving health, and souls good, and your eternal peace and happiness, and eternally shall you witness us, to that which doth convince you: I speak that which will witness with me in the end, when the thoughts of every mans heart shall be revealed, and the book of Conscience shall be opened; therefore be low in heart, and consider where you are, and learn the lesson of Christ, and put him on, and forsake all your blinde guides without you, and minde the guide within you; they are the sons of God, that are guided by the Spirit of the Lord; they are not the Sons of God, who can profess and talk of the Letter, and persecute them which are contrary to their opinions, but shew forth to be the children of the Devil, and not of God.

MY name is covered from the world, and the world knows not me, nor my name; the earthly name the earthly man knows, and he is afraid of reproach, and cannot bear it upon the earthly name; he that overcometh, hath the new name, and knoweth it; he that is not come into the War, knows it not; he that overcometh, ſitteth in his throne, he that overcometh is crowned, he that is judged, and judgement, is brought into victory, and then it is ſet in the earth; he that overcometh, eateth of the hidden Manna; he that overcometh, ſhal inherite all things: he that is without, hath the old name, and wants all things, and cannot judge any thing; for the natural man knows not the things of God, but the ſpiritual man judgeth all things; he that hath an ear to hear, let him hear; and bleſſed is he that reads, and doth underſtand what he reads.

G. F.

To

TO THE

Parliament of this Commonwealth, and the General, and Major General of the ARMY.

A Declaration of the preſent condition of ſeveral Inhabitants in *Weſtmerland*, and ſome part in *Lancaſhire*, whoſe names are ſubſcribed, who have been faithful to the Parliament, and ſerviceable in their places to this Commonwealth, to the hazard of their Lives, Liberties and Eſtates.

Declareth,

THat the Lord hath made known himſelf, and manifeſted his love to us, in letting us ſee the deadneſs and emptineſs of all the outward Miniſtry of the world; and hath according to his own promiſe

promiſe, led us forth of the barren Wilderneſs of outward carnal Worſhips, and is his himſelf become our Teacher, and hath made us willing to wait alone upon him for Teaching: By the power and vertue of which, we deny all the Teaching which ſtands in the will of man whatſoever; and ſo meeting together to wait upon the Lords unlimitted power, exhorting and building up one another in our moſt holy faith, according to the practice of all the Saints before us; Not onely ſpending the Firſt day of the week in ſuch Exerciſes, but ſeveral other days and nights, as the Lord gives us opportunity, to the great refreſhment of our ſouls, and uniting of our hearts to the Lord, and one to another, to his everlaſting praiſe and glory; and having occaſion to praiſe the Lord for that Freedom which the Parliament doth allow us, for which the Prieſts much maligns us, and ſtirs up the ignorant people in their Publique Aſſemblies, to execute their rigour upon us, fomenting lyes, and accuſing us to the Magiſtrates falſely, cauſing ſome to be Endicted, ſome Impriſoned, and ſome bound over for no juſt cauſe at all: And hath done all that in them lies to deprive us of that Liberty which the Parliament hath afforded: As may appear, by ſeveral Orders made at a late Seſſions at Appleby in Weſtmerland; wherein they have Ordered, That we ſhall not meet together in the night time, which hath been the practice of the Saints in former ages, and hath been our practice, becauſe there are many

many Servants and young labouring people, which cannot come on the day, which comes at the night, becauſe we would not give an occaſion of offence: Wherein we do witneſs, that while we did meet together on the night to ſport and ſpend the time in vanity, we were not medled withal; but now we do teſtifie againſt all ſuch practices: and who lives now in the ſame nature hates us: But Juſtice which cuts down filthineſs, and gives way for truth to riſe, we own. But there are ſeveral got into Commiſſion of the peace, formerly Malignants, and ſome that have been actually in Arms againſt the Parliament, contrary to the Act of Parliament, and are utter Enemies to the Truth, as doth appear, not onely here, but likewiſe in Yorkſhire, where there hath been ten of our Brethren and Siſters kept in Priſon in York Caſtle, ſome of them the moſt part of a whole year, and ſince the laſt Aſſizes were kept in cloſe Priſon, until one of them dyed, and ſo continued in cloſe Priſon, until it pleaſed the Lord to move the hearts of ſome to procure them more Liberty. And whereas we are a people accuſed to deny Magiſtracy, it is not ſo; For Juſtice we own in our ſouls, which cuts down corruption, which keeps the ſoul in the death; For let every ſoul be ſubject to the higher power: For all power is of God, and that we ſet up, own and honor for Conſcience ſake, and all men in the Lord. Likewiſe our dear Brother *James Nayler* lies in Priſon in Appleby, who ſerved the Parliament

liament under the Command of Major General *Lambert*, betwixt eight and nine years, as we believe ſome of the Army can witneſs: All that we deſire is, that Books may be printed; whereby the Truth may be manifeſted: And if we tranſgreſs or offend, we are willing to ſuffer.

This Petition was ſigned by Three hundred and twenty nine of the Inhabitants of Laneſhire, and part of Weſtmerland.

FINIS.